



# Southern African Antique Wireless Association ZS0AWA



**FEBRUARY 2006**  
**Issue #2**

Well, another month has past and we are well on our way in to the New Year and hence our second edition of the AWA newsletter. I hope you enjoyed the first issue. I have had some feed back regarding this, so hopefully we can consider this a done deal and produce one every month.

I am sending this out to all who have called in on the AWA net with the hopes that it will encourage you to call in again and help to keep the AWA net alive and well.

Unfortunately, at present I can only do this for those who have email, but perhaps in the future we could look at putting together a hard copy for those without email. The cost of producing the hard copy as well as covering the postage is a bit of a dilemma, as there are no fees required to be a member of the AWA. There are about 30 regulars who do not have listed email addresses.

I have decided this month to send out hard copies to all those without email. Be assured this will be a once of as the cost in mailing alone is over R60. Should you want to keep receiving hard copies of this newsletter every month, then send me 10 prepaid envelopes with your name and address on and I will ensure that you get a copy of the news letter each month. Address to send to:

Andy Cairns – ZS6ADY  
P.O. Box 12320  
Benoryn  
1504

## **This Month:**

On Saturday 04 February is the open day at the TAC (Transvaal Aviation Club) at Rand Airport. I have included on the last page a small map with directions to the TAC from all the main routes.

For those of you who are not too sure how to read a map or in case you lose your way, there will be a call in on 145.700, and 145.500 simplex if you are unable to access the repeater. Looking forward to seeing many of you there.

I have had a request to place items for Swap or Sale (swap for coupons) in the newsletter, so I will include that at the end of the newsletter. Should you have any items for swap, send me a message and we will put it in the next newsletter.

### **ZS0AWA/CW.**



The CW net on Saturday afternoons was quiet over the Holiday period, but we hope that this will improve. Some of the regular diehards have been, Barrie – ZS6AJY; Clive – ZS6AVP; Ian – ZS5IAN and on the odd occasion John – ZS6JBJ and Francois – ZS6BUU. For those of you interested in keeping your hand in at CW and keeping CW going, do come and join us. The net is run at 12 wpm and so should meet the needs of all interested in CW. 7020 is the frequency on Saturday afternoons at 14:00 SAST.

### **AM Net:**

The AM net continues to do well and each week draws more people calling in.

When calling in on AM, first get your own rig zero beat with the net controller, never mind about frequency readouts. If we can all zero beat on the net controller, then we should all be operating on the same frequency. On the odd occasion, we have had some listeners whose first comment is that “everyone” is on a different frequency. Do not use RIT or clarifiers to set your frequency unless you have it set to both transmit and receive frequency. Quite often one uses the RIT to tune in another station, but your transmit frequency remains where you had it originally. This causes great amounts of frustration, as we all then have to try and resolve the frequencies of each station transmitting.

Please remember, those who don’t call in on AM, that you may be able to hear the AM stations quite well on your SSB rig, but they cannot copy your SSB transmission.

Because of the amount of callers now on AM, we have started an AM group on Wednesday evening at 07:30 SAST on 80m, freq 3615. Please come up and join us if you have the time. It promises to become a fairly big group. This in addition to the AM call in on Saturdays.

### **SSB Net:**

It’s really good to see how the net has grown over the past few years and how the interest in valve rigs has grown. With regular callers from all over the country, and further, using all sorts of valve equipment, this net can only increase in popularity. It’s time to get those old rigs off the shelves and fire them up again. They weren’t meant to be sitting on shelves looking pretty. I am amazed at how many FT101’s there are out there.

When calling in to the net, let us know what rig you are using.

## Promotions:

The Radio Technology in Action is going to Durban and Cape Town with plans for other centers, according to the SARL news, which is a great opportunity to punt the AWA. I do realize this is still a long way away, but before we know it, the time will be upon us. Lets start organizing a few things now already to go and show the old rigs to a modern world.

I have agreed with Dennis Green, to send in a regular article from the AWA to be included in Radio ZS. Perhaps some of the more technically inclined pundits in the group could send articles on valve equipment that we could put in Radio ZS. Restoration tips etc, could be useful to those with an interest in the old time equipment.

Should you feel so inclined, send us pictures of your shack that we could have them included in the articles, or in this newsletter.

## Restoration News:

Should you know of anyone who may be busy restoring one of the old valve rigs, let us know. It may be of interest to the group to know what's out there and still working.

Andy – ZS6ADY is busy with a Collins 32V-3 and a Hallicrafters SX25 that he is trying to revive. The Collins is not in too bad a condition, but a lot of the parts came already stripped out and in pieces, like the main VFO. So the jigsaw has to be put back together. The Collins is a CW/AM transmitter made in 1952 and operates 10m-80m with an output power of about 60w. (I had to strengthen the workbench to take the weight). The SX25 is a CW/AM receiver made in 1940 and operating 0.54 – 42 Mhz.



Collins 32V-3



Hallicrafters SX25

## Antique vs Vintage:

I have heard this topic being discussed a few times and have even had the question put to me a couple of times about why are we “Antique” radios and not “Vintage”.

So I went to the dictionary to look up the words and try and put some meaning into why we are called the Antique Wireless Association and not the Vintage Wireless Ass. And the only reasoning I can come up with is this:

Antique - Very old, Traditional, Aged, and Historic  
Vintage – Time, Period, Age, Classic, Epoch

If we look at the meanings of the two words in question, they are quite distinct and very basically, to my way of thinking, Antique just refers to something old. It has no time base set to it, so the spectrum becomes quite wide. This is what I believe our collection of “Old” radios and the association is about. There is no specific time set to how old the radio must be in order for it to be called an antique. In the eyes of a lot of people today, with our modern communication network, Amateur Radio is antique.

Vintage on the other hand, refers to a time base. If one looks at Vintage and Classic cars, there is a time base set for them to be in a particular class. A classic car is not a vintage, but they could both be classed as antique. If you get my drift ( $\pm 5\text{Kc}$ ). Now I know this could promote a lot of discussion and I could probably take a lot of heat for this, but that is my point of view. What say you ???

We remind you again that you don’t have to be operating Antique rigs to join up with us, but merely have an interest in them. Tell your friends, who show an interest in valve rigs.

#### **Swap Column:**

*Swan 350 in mint condition*  
*Drake TR4C*  
*Collins KWM2A in carry case*  
*S-line 75S1/32S3*  
*Central Electronics 600L linear. All in good working order.*

*These are available from Danny ZS6AW – contact number 083 401 4000*

If you would like to forward this newsletter to any other interested parties, please feel free to do so. Print it out and put in on your club notice board, or give it to someone interested in valve radios. If you know of any who report in on the net but don’t have email, print it out and give them a copy.

Remember net days and times:

Saturday 08:30 AM net - frequency – 7070Mhz  
Saturday 09:00 SSB net – frequency 7070Mhz  
Saturday 14:00 CW net – frequency 7020Mhz

## Directions to TAC (Transvaal Aviation Club)



Directions from Pretoria, Johannesburg, Midrand along the N3 South – After the Geldenhuys interchange, just before the split on the N3 South to Durban, Alberton/Vereeniging, take the “**Rand Airport**” off ramp. At the traffic lights, turn left. You are now on the R46 shown on the map, past the Wesbank Raceway. Turn right to follow R48, go around and past the Rand Airport to the intersection at “**Russel**” road, Turn right and the turn in to the TAC is on your right a few hundred meters or so.

Directions from Springs, Brakpan N17 West bound (Secunda highway) – Before the toll gate, take the “**Wits Rifle Range**” off ramp. At the traffic lights, turn right in to Russel Road. After 2 sets of traffic lights over the hill, turn off to TAC is on your left.

Directions from Durban on the N3 north bound – take the “**Grey Street**” off ramp before the main intersection from Bloemfontein/Vereeniging. Turn Right back over the highway on Grey, to the intersection of “**Black Reef**” road, turn left into Black Reef. Black Reef forks to the right to become **Wits Rifle Range** which becomes **Russel**. Follow directions above.

Directions from Vereeniging, Sasolburg on the N12 North Bound – take the Alberton/Voortrekker Str off ramp, turn left at the traffic lights. Go up to the intersection of South Rand road, right in to South Rand. Follow South Rand up over the Highways and becomes R48. Follow directions from Pretoria etc.

Thanks for the bandwidth.

DE ZS6ADY FOR ZS0AWA